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SKIP

• August 1996

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet

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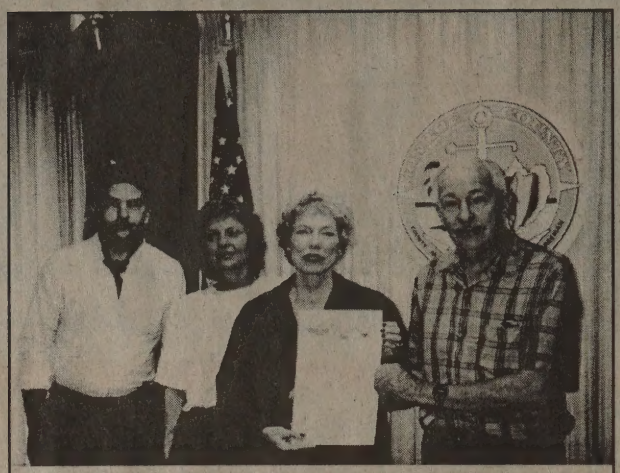
Bertha Blows By



At the request of the Key West Amateur Radio Club, Monroe County Mayor, Shirley Freeman (second from left) signed a proclamation designating the weekend of June 22-23 as Amateur Radio Weekend in Monroe County. Pictured with her are, from left, Jake Eckardt - N3WFU, club Vice President, Shirley Perpall - KE4LXP, Secretary/Treasurer, Mayor Freeman and Steve Godwin - KD6ZZ, President. Mayor Freeman read the proclamation at the regular commission meeting and thanked the 400 amateur radio operators of Monroe County for their ongoing cooperation with County officials during both simulated and actual emergencies.

SKIP Magazine now on World Wide Web

The scheduled April 1st launch of the SKIP web site finally became a reality on July 6th. The original coding was not backed up and was a casualty of the lightning strike. As it stands right now, it is an overview of the magazine coverage with interesting and useful links. A subscription form is provided for new subscribers.

SKIP plans to post the latest hamfest and computer shows throughout the southeast but that will be accomplished when the Editor finally gets the current listing up-to-date.

Readers can send e-mail by clicking on the miniature "gwentz@digital.net" at the bottom center of the home page. Of course, one can send it any old way you want using the same address.

I hope all of you will get a chance to view the new site. It was a magnificent labor of love, devotion, planning, reading, and experimenting which, if I never - ever - have to do again, I'll be happy. Translating the Dead-Sea Scrolls would be easier.

View the web site at (TA - DA):

http://www.digital.net/skip

FCC Explores Electronic Filing of Formal Comments

The FCC has announced plans to open a proceeding to allow electronic filing of formal comments in rulemaking proceedings and on-line access to those comments. The announcement on June 24 "begins a process of revising outdated rules and clearing the way for the expanded use of new technologies at the FCC," the Commission said.

The action followed a Notice of Inquiry (PP 96-17) in February that asked how computer technology and the Internet could be used to improve FCC procedures. "The vast majority of commenters advocated expanded use of electronic filing," the Commission said. Current rules require formal comments be filed on paper, so a rulemaking proceeding is needed to permit comments filed via e-mail or on diskette to be treated the same as paper comments. (These rules do not apply to comments filed in regard to WRC-97 preparations, which already may be filed electronically.)

The Commission said "the challenge of meeting the workload and deadlines of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has prompted the FCC to seek ways to make it easier for the public to file and review comments" and is consistent with efforts elsewhere in the government to expand the use of electronic filing by agencies.

FCC Chairman Reed Hundt said the proceeding "will allow us to eliminate outdated restrictions, and to use the Internet to better serve the public."—FCC

PHANTOMS HELP NAB "THE PHANTOM JAMMER"

The Phantoms Amateur Radio Group (PARG) of Portland, Oregon, is claiming credit for helping police to nab "The Phantom Jammer," who was interfering with police calls in Seaside, Oregon, during the Northwest Division Convention in early June. John Mackey, KA0SSF, of PARG reports members were on the beach enjoying the annual PARG bonfire when KB7YZS heard someone "cursing and yelling at people" on the VHF police frequency, which he was monitoring at the time. After a few minutes of listening, members figured out that the person was up in a balcony and was with a mixed group. KB7YZS, KB7YZR, N7XMD, and AA7UP (who just happen to be most of the PARG Interference Committee) immediately activated direction-finding operations and tracked down the interference to a local motel. It only took them a few minutes to spot a group on a balcony, one of whom was using an H-T. After noting that the transmissions coincided with what they heard on the police frequency, PARG informed Seaside Police. A short time later, Mackey reports, Seaside Police "caught the person in the act."

Seaside Police subsequently charged Bobby Lee Aguero, KE6VNU, of Rocklin, California, with interfering with a police office. As we've already reported in The ARRL Letter and in QST, Aguero, 19, already faces similar charges in California.

Mackey said this was the second consecutive year PARG got to provide a public service during the Seaside convention. Last year several PARG members apprehended a purse thief—after a brief foot pursuit—returned the purse to its rightful owner, and detained the suspect until police could arrive. PARG has a Web page at http://www.teleport.com/~mscott/dumb.shtml. The group's current president is Justin Bousquet, AB7NG.

-ARRL Letter

NEW LIFE FOR OLD HEATHKITS?

The ARRL Lab's Mike Tracy, KC1SX, has uncovered a possible source for surplus Heathkit parts that Heath sold off a number of years ago. It's Spectrum Electronics, Eastern Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507, tel 616-742-0613. Mike says that although Spectrum Electronics is strictly a repair business, if you let them know what specific Heath part number you are looking for, they may be able to provide it. However, he emphasizes that you be specific and use part numbers. For example, don't ask for "the plate cap in the SB-200."

Heathkit manuals often are available from: Hi-Manuals, PO Box 802, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0802, tel 712-323-9737; Manuals Plus (test equipment manuals only), PO Box 549, Tooele, UT 84074, tel 801-882-7188; or W7FG Vintage Manuals, 3300 Wayside Dr, Bartlesville, OK 74006, tel 800-807-6146 or 918-333-3754; e-mail w7fg@eigen.net; WWW, **http://newton.eigen.net/w7fg/.**

- ARRL Letter

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AEA has a new Internet site.

It's **http://www.aeainc.com.**

The Lynnwood, Washington, company's Web site includes information about the company, its products, upgrading and purchasing.

SKIP ON TAPE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

SKIP is put on tape every month for the benefit of the blind or visually impaired. These tapes are available if requested and postage is paid both ways. If you are interested in this valuable service, contact Ms. Desaree Stewart, Library for the Blind, 420 Platt Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. **Phone 1-800-226-6075.**

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Reader Mail

From Steve Mansfield, N1MZA - Mgr Legislative & Public Affairs - ARRL, Newington, Connecticut

Thanks for taking the time to contact Congressman Weldon regarding co-sponsorship of HR 3207, and for taking the time to feature his letter in Florida Skip.

While we at headquarters work very hard on legislative issues of benefit to Amateur Radio operators, it is amateurs such as you, willing to pick up the pen and write letters that are the real source of our success in Washington — not to mention your ongoing dedication and hard work on Florida Skip.

Dear Steve: Many, many thanks for the nice letter. After being burned by bolts from high places, it's nice to receive some good words from high places.

Bolt draws reader comments

From Herb Foster, AD4UA - Melbourne, Florida

I read your account of the Bolt From the Blue that zapped your computer. I don't quite understand how you could treat so lightly and even with a dash of humor what must have been a most traumatic experience. But my hat is off to you for scurrying around and getting the mag out at all. I'm certainly not going to get all shook up because it was a trifle late and one or two of your contributing editors were missing.

Of great interest is that your ham gear came through ok. I think your VFB ground system might have had something to do with it.

The whole account made me wonder if your lost computer equipment was covered by insurance and if so by whom. I recently sent in my annual payment to my insurance, which is through the ARRL. At the time I was grumbling to myself and wondering why I was doing this, but it's clear now and I grumble no more.

Did you have records germane to Florida Skip backed up? if so, by what medium? Tape? Disk?

Dear Herb: On the occasion of the bolt, I uncharacteristically identified with Lenny Bruce who said, "All my humor is based on destruction and despair." Yes, I was covered by insurance. Since the SKIP occupies the north quarter of my home, and at the advice of my insurance adviser, also my daughter (remember the one crawling under the table), I attached a rider on my homeowner's to cover my electronic equipment. As far as backing up, I use a tape back up system but like most people, never immediately before a crisis. I have a knack of being 30 days late and 40 dollars short on that one. I complicated my recovery by installing my new computers with Windows 95 operating systems - which I liken to programming a VCR. Many applications don't take too kindly to Windows 95, one of them my old publishing software. ger//

From Clark Evans, WA4DLL - Tampa, Florida

Sorry to hear about your lightning strike. Will tell you two stories: When they were surveying the railroad for David Moffat, west of Dover in the Gore Canyon, they heard only one bolt of lightning. They found a surveyor died on the other end of the canyon - from the one bolt of lightning.

In Dale City, Virginia, in 1971, lightning hit a big oak tree beside the telephone switching office, came up through the grounding system and burned up two Lorin chargers. Lorin Company said, "That can't happen". We told Lorin, "We are sending them back to you". The chargers were about 3' x 3' x 10' high. They changed AC to DC for the big, 24 each, batteries (2 volts each).

Dear Clark: Surveyor. Oak Tree. Hmmm. Somehow I want to make a connection with, "Tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree". Gad, that's bad enough to draw another bolt. ger//

FLORIDA SKIP

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QCWA News

Frank Obenauf, W2IAJ

A PICNIC?

The Pelican Chapter #128 of QCWA will again host its Annual Catered Fried Chicken Picnic on November 20th, in shelter #13 at Lake Seminole Park, St. Petersburg, Florida. The time will be from 10:30 until whenever. The cost will remain the same as before at $7.50 per person. The menu is fried chicken with all the trimmings including dessert and drink. There will be prizes and goodies before the picnic. All QCWA members and guests are invited to attend. Tickets and reservations can be obtained from Don Bice, W4PCO at 813-347-2707, or the Callbook address. Talk-in will be on 145.29 (-600), the QCWA Repeater.

QCWA members take note! *By all indications, response of our members to the QCWA column have been positive but if you have not seen your chapter mentioned, perhaps you can help. At the next chapter meeting, you might go over to the secretary and suggest that they send a brief report of the month's activities to me (Frank - the Editor). I understand that it's summer with many of our members on vacation or "birding" up north but that doesn't mean local chapters suspend operations. I'd like to receive news by the 5th of the month previous to the month of issue. See my address on page 4 listing.*

Gator Chapter #32 - by Frank Obenauf, W2IAJ

The July meeting was attended by 20 members and guests. During summer months, informal meetings are held but no programs are presented. Many residents are on vacation and our "snowbirds", whose ranks swell during the winter, are enjoying the cooler weather while we endure high heat and humidity.

Our secretary had no communications to pass along or birthdays/anniversaries to announce. We hear that our long time member Harold Johnson, K4GVB and wife Lois will be moving from a large home in Largo to a smaller apartment in a downtown Clearwater high-rise condo where member Art (W4BK) Monsees and his wife Ruth reside. Will there be QRM?

Our next meeting will be Saturday August 3rd at Stacey's Buffet, 1451 Missouri Ave. in the Midway Shopping Plaza, Largo. Lunch starts at 11:00 a.m. We will welcome new members. Come and bring your spouse or a friend.

Pelican Chapter #128 - by H, Frederick Strom, K9BSL

The June meeting was opened by President Buddy Morgan, WB4OMG at the usual Stacey's Buffet in Tyrone Gardens Shopping Center in St. Petersburg. There were 21 members and guests present. There was special recognition of XYL of Harold Fox, W3AA (SK), Marian, WA3YJR and her granddaughter Kimberly Byrd. John Smith, W4ACG introduced his guest Robert L Benedict, KB4HTH. The VP notified members that the next meeting will be July 17th.

According to Treasurer Don Bice, W4PCO the Pelican Treasury stands at $1,179.19 with all bills paid. It was decided to hold the Pelican Big Brown Bird Picnic on November 20th. After a short eulogy by Fr. L. Charles Tardiff, W3EHG for Harold Fox, his XYL Marian WA3YJR placed Hal's QCWA pin on the Pelican Chapter Banner.

Adriel Spaulding, W4PUZ is presented his 75-year plaque by Wes Randles, W4COW, National Treasurer QCWA and longtime friend of "Red".

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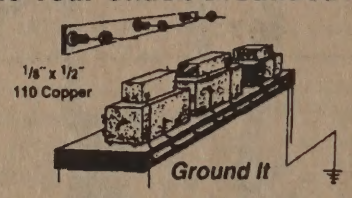
Florida CW Nets

Ed Roller, K4IA

GN reported by "Rip" AA4HT

Gator Net handled exactly the same amount of traffic in June that was handled in the month of May, even though June was one day shorter. Total traffic handled was 231. It was great to have AB4XK, WV5Z, KE4DNO, K4SCL, AND KD4OGV drop in on the net during the month. Hope they are able to come back often. It is great to have Dan, W4DL, return to the net after a six month absence. Dan has also agreed to resume his position as manager of the net and will take over writing the GN news for SKIP. Dan had taken the six months off to do some travelling and relaxing. Bill, WT4F, also returned to the net late in the month after a vacation in South Carolina visiting children and grand children. Since this will be my last opportunity, I want to thank the Net Controls on the net for their greatly appreciated help during my tenure as acting net manager. K4JI, W4VQQ, W4IYT all do a super job as a net control station. Also thanks to the rest of the regular members of the net, W3CUL, WA4EYU, N4FL, WT4F, and N4EKC for being there on a regular basis. Remember, the Gator Net meets each morning at 8:30 AM and we look forward to having you join us whether you have any traffic or not. 73 de AA4HT.....

Is Your Shack Grounded?



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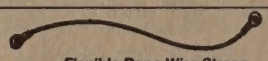

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FMSN BY LAURA WA9VND

FMSN Stats June QNI 244 QTC 177 QND 466. My end of tenure as FMSN MGR will be to most heartfully give a big thank you to all who came into the net. Special big hugs to the NCS stations and reps, and I was lucky enough to have a great bunch of helpers. It was a fast year for me and most enjoyable. At this time I would like to give you the history of FMSN.

AA4FG Mr. Fred Marchman of New Port Richey gave birth to the idea of FMSN at the Melbourne Hamfest 1980. It grew from there to the present time and is still growing with honor and a good reputation. It is an upper level net much like a mini QFN TFC Net. It has established itself as a permanent part of the South Florida Traffic scene.

PAST FMSN Managers were:

1980-81 BOB KE4OI	1988-89 ALMA N4MML
1981-82 BILL NY4E	1989-90 O.B. WC4D
1982-83 LEE W4ESH	1990-91 JOE N4KFU
1984-85 FRED AA4FG	1991-92 WALT WA4QXT
1985-86 RIP AA4HT	1992-93 J.B. KB4ECA
1986-87 BILL WD4KBW	1993-94 JOHN KC4FL
1987-88 DON N4IWO	1994-95 RUSS KC4ZHN
	1995-96 LAURA WA9VND

I am very proud to have served with such distinguished operators. Now I introduce Mr. Gary Adams KE4DNO of Lake Helen FL as new manager for the coming year 1996-97. We all wish him Good Luck and clear signals. Thanks to all again, 88's LAURA WA9VND Outgoing MGR FMSN.

QCWA member ruffles St. Petersburg Times

Having been an amateur radio operator since 1958, I am very angry about the appearance of Man's radio waves ruffle his neighbors, by Justin Blum (March 7). The Times should be aware that I am not alone with my view.

It is my understanding that Robert McGuire is a citizens band operator, not a ham operator as the article implies. The people of Ridge Manor certainly appear to have a legitimate complaint, especially since the CB operator apparently is illegally using equipment that is not the type approved for CB. Additionally, by his own admission, McGuire is running about 140 watts, 28 times the legal CB limit. The magnitude of the problem as outlined by the writer, if correct, would indicate that McGuire is probably also using an amplifier as many CB operators are.

The legitimate ham operator has enough problems without irresponsible writers further compounding the problem. The solid-state electronic circuits used in today's TVs, VCRs. radios, telephones, electronic organs and virtually anything else that has speakers attached to it are open invitations to interference from legitimate radio transmitters. It is more often a design fault of the receiving device rather than a ham radio transmitter and antenna system.

May this letter serve as an invitation to Justin Blum to visit my home and witness a lack of interference to my TV, radio, VCR or telephone while I am operating my amateur radio station at about 1,000 watts.

Ken Hartley, K3HJN, Pinellas Park

Florida Phone Nets

SEFTN by Bob, KC4ZHF - Asst. Net Manager

Greetings from the members of the Southeast Florida Traffic Net. Another month has escaped us and while the census was down for the month, the traffic held steadily. SEFTN logged 1,261 stations, 364 messages passed and 1994 minutes of net time during 60 sessions of SEFTN at 11:30 a.m. daily and the regular training sessions at 6:00 p.m. daily.

Our 1000th station for June was KD4HGU, John, NCS was KD4JMV. Congrats John, a certificate "by Laura" is in the mail. This is the 105th consecutive month we have logged over 1000 stations.

During the Field Day weekend., our Saturday (June 22nd) session was held from the Field Day site in Plantation by NCS Donna, AE4QA. This was Donna's first Field Day experience and something tells me she had an enjoyable time. Did a great job conducting the net.

Charles, WB4PAM has been hosting our "Traffic Tips" sessions for the past six weeks, covering all aspects of Message Handling, in a running series. Great job Charles. Your sessions are excellent and most informative. All of our Traffic Tips Hosts do a superb job.

Those maintaining 100% participation status dwindled during June. Honor roll consisted of KS4JK and KC4JNM. Guess it was vacations and severe weather. While we are still checking in many new members, some visitors to the area, attendance is down. Tell your fellow hams about the net and in particular, any new hams in the area. It is a great place to learn traffic handling.

Join us daily in the Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Co. areas on 146.19/79 MHz at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. 73/88 - Bob

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FREE E-mail on web

FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1996 JUL 2 (NB)—REPEAT/Taking the World Wide Web advertising model another step forward, HoTMaiL says it will give away a free electronic-mail account to anyone who can access the Web. The service means users do will no longer log-on to their Internet provider to get e-mail.

At first sight, one would ask why have another e-mail account since one already comes with most Internet accounts and all online service accounts from Compuserve, AOL, and Prodigy. Kelly Herman, spokesperson for HoTMaiL, told Newsbytes, "That is true, but with HoTMaiL you can receive e-mail from anywhere on the Web. There are a lot of times when users access the Web from a different computer than they have at work or at home. By using HoTMaiL, you can get your mail anytime without having to get to your provider. All you have to do is be on the Web."

In addition to solving remote access problems, HoTMaiL says the new service brings under control standardization, high costs, lack of integration of Web technology and other e-mail problems.

"The World Wide Web is a truly universal and global medium," said Sabeer Bhatia, president and chief executive officer of HoTMaiL. "Our vision is to utilize the ubiquitous nature of the Web to enable people to effortlessly communicate with each other from anywhere in the world. HoTMaiL is a giant step in realizing this vision."

The Internet, originally characterized by being free of charges, has struggled to increase its content and enrich content with graphics, sound and video while remaining free of charges. Some Web sites are fee or subscription-based, but many have chosen a TV-like model of advertising to pay for the service. Internet search services such as Yahoo, Excite, Infoseek and others are leading the way by offering extensive free information supported by advertisements. HoTMaiL now offers one of the most extensive free services on the Web.

HoTMaiL is available July 4, and can be found at URL (uniform resource locator) http://www.hotmail.com .

(Patrick McKenna/19960701/Press Contact: Kelly Herman, McLean Public Relations, tel 415-513-8800; E-mail Address: kherman@hotmail.com)

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Knights of the Kilocycle

Don Browne, KQ4YM

Knights Busy With Field Day and Hurricane Watch!

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating it's 66th anniversary of operation. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been over 530 memberships awarded to amateur operators. The Knights always welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net. And here goes the Knightly News:

Master Ocillator, Charlie, K8RIF has handed over the net control duties to Jay, K9BSL for a few weeks. And Bob W4KOG has taken over the net while jay was doing some travel. But unfortunately while Charlie while taking some time off he had a heart problem which needed some attention. We all hope for a speedy recovery for Charlie who had been handling net control duties for some months.

Many of the Knights participated in Field Day recently. Bob W4KOG, of North Palm Beach, had his call sign used for a club field day station recently. Bob also reports new grandson number six. Bob has four granddaughters

While John, W4UGQ of Port Charlotte is one of the first recipients of the vanity call sign program. He was formerly KL7JV and now has his father's former callsign.

Marion, KC4MFT and Doug, N4SLS received a letter from Paul, N4LGD and Eva who are in Maine and they report they have helped some friends and relatives get interested in getting their ham licenses up there.

Fortunately, we Floridians were not hit by the July hurricane but we all did our best to be prepared and ready to meet any communications needs we could serve. Batteries charged, antennas at ready, and nets monitored. The nets were very busy for a week while we did out best to be ready for anything. Good job, Floridian hams!

I helped out a ham I recently met over in Alva recently to put up a new 75-meter dipole. San, N6JVM has a nice station over off the Caloosahatchee River in the small-town of Alva. We put up the wire on her tower and connected the ends to the palm and oak trees on the property. We hope to have her check in soon with the Knights with her new 75-meter capability.

For those who have computers and Internet access, I have recently placed a new web site on the Internet Called Southwest Florida Online it includes several pages of Amateur Radio news and information for Southwest Florida residents and visitors as well as the latest online callbook for looking up hams if you know either the name or call sign. There is a Florida repeater frequency list and highlights from the Pelican Chapter QCWA (St. Petersburg) newsletter and Edison Chapter QCWA (Ft. Myers). Additionally there are listings of all Glades and Hendry County hams and Lehigh Acres, Florida hams. Included are call signs and license class. There is also a 2-meter frequency list of local area repeaters and simplex frequencies for Southwest Florida residents and visitors in Hendry, Glades and Lee county. There are also listings of short-wave radio programs about ham radio and computers that can be heard easily in Florida. The web address is:

http://members.aol.com/browne

We encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles and let us know what's been happening in your area. We welcome all hams from anywhere that can hear us. Invite your out of state friends to listen in and call in some Sunday morning. See you all on Sunday morning. Don Browne, KQ4YM, for the Knights of the Kilocycle 4085 E. Sunflower Cir. Labelle, Fl. 33935-5520 (941) 674-5715

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THE TUNED ANTENNA

Sports at PCARS Field Day

Unidentified Hams engage in extracurricular sports activities at Platinum Coast Am. Radio Society field day. On left, gentleman addresses the ball during a T-Ball game and on right, two Hams and a Hamlet use a trapped vertical as a first-down marker for a football game. *Not true!* Hams were preparing site for their field day activities.

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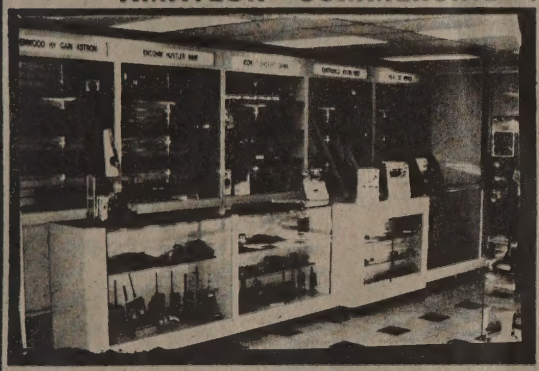

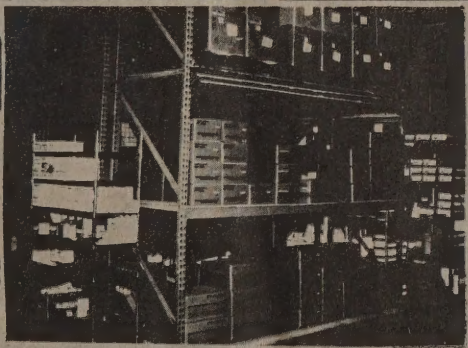

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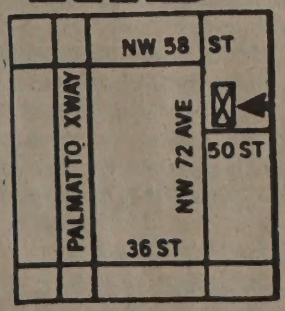

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Statistics

Top Twenty Trafficers - Jun. 1996

-by AA4HT and WX4J

	Station	Total		Station	Total
1	W3CUL	3635	11	KB4WBY	414
2	WX4H	2051	12	WA4PUP	400
3	W3VR	1578	13	AB4XK	351
4	WA9VND	1005	14	N4SS	292
5	AA4HT	583	15	KC4ZHF	268
6	KE4DNO	578	16	KA4FZI	268
7	K4SCL	554	17	KC4ZHN	266
8	NR2F	503	18	K4FQU	197
9	KA2YZM	501	19	WC4D	187
10	W7AMM	467	20	WA4EIC	172

Traffic Hounds - Jun. 1996

-by Kevin Bunin, WV5Z STM SFL

Net	QNI	AVG.	QTC	AVG	SES	MGR	QTC/QNI
AIN	98	19.6	0	0.0	5	WA4ATF	0.00
BCEPN	142	35.5	8	2.0	4	KA2YZM	0.06
DEN	224	56.0	0	0.0	4	N4LTT	0.00
ENMC	64	16.0	4	1.0	4	KB4UEI	0.06
EPAN	595	148.8	66	16.5	4	AD4BL	0.11
FAST	594	9.9	231	3.9	60	KE4ESV	0.39
FMSN	244	8.1	177	5.9	30	WA9VND	0.73
FMTN	323	10.8	306	10.2	30	KC4ZHN	0.95
FPON	153	5.1	35	1.2	30	WB4GCK	0.23
FPTN	1380	46.0	291	9.7	30	WN4IIV	0.21
GN	208	6.9	231	7.7	30	AA4HT	1.11
MCAN	65	16.3	0	0.0	4	W3YWK	0.00
NFAN	1123	44.9	345	13.8	25	WA4NDA	0.31
NFPN	878	29.3	226	7.5	30	AD4DO	0.26
PBCEN	196	49.0	4	1.0	4	KE4CGQ	0.02
PBCTN	607	24.3	17	0.7	25	KE4CGQ	0.03
PCSN	118	16.9	0	0.0	7	KT4LL	0.00
QFN	737	12.3	562	9.4	60	WX4H	0.76
QFNS	202	6.7	57	5.6	30	KE4DNO	0.22
SEFTN	1261	21.0	364	6.1	60	KD4GR	0.29
SFAN	65	16.3	5	1.3	4	KD4GR	0.08
SPARC	458	15.3	40	1.3	30	N4ZMQ	0.09
SVTN	782	27.0	169	5.8	29	KE4DNO	0.22
SWFTN	411	16.4	109	4.4	25	K4FQU	0.27
TPTN	539	18.0	196	6.5	30	NR2F	0.36
VCTN	318	10.6	113	3.8	30	KE4DNO	0.36
TOTAL		**3443**			**AVG**	**0.28**	

SFL BBS Totals - Jun., 1996

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
K0ZXF	0	150	2870	3020
K4VJI	49	843	7379	8289
KB4GBS	8	632	5655	6295
KB4VOL	35	938	6164	7137
KB4WUA	0	267	5909	6176
KC4IBT	0	12	154	166
KC4YEK	0	119	4729	4848
KD4GR	47	413	6692	7152
KD4INY				
KD4MJV	5	895	6787	7687
KD4MZM	0	165	5901	6066
KD4UBZ	0	176	8886	9062
KD6ZZ	7	145	4482	4634
KE2IX	85	638	4489	5212
KE4AQU	0	104	8137	8241
KE4BXF		-NO REPORT-		
KE4CRB		-NO REPORT-		
KF4BPX	2	135	5530	5667
KF4HFR	0	0	0	0
KF4OJ	0	227	6117	6344
KI4ZJ		-NO REPORT-		
KN4YT	79	648	6371	7098
KO4KS	7	903	5973	6883
KP4EDL	0	607	6784	7391
KT4DI	0	389	4083	4472
N4AWX	0	659	4818	5477
N4HHP	79	2358	7645	10082
N4JOA	6	122	6249	6377
N4XEO	10	695	5894	6599
W4DPH		-NO REPORT-		
W4MWP	1 2	323	6508	
	05		7228	9433

NTS TOTAL: 719

Does your call have a -NO REPORT- next to it? Why?? C'mon folks, these are IMPORTANT, especially with the current threat to our 2 meter and 440 bands. Show them that we USE them...or we might LOSE them!

If you have any questions, or need the software utilities to generate your BBS report, drop me a note with your name, address and size floppy needed. There's no charge. The utilities work with all types of bbs software except TCP/IP (NOS.)

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida BBS's to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports MUST be sent on the 1st covering BBS activity for the previous month. Please participate!

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL, ARRL Packet Manager South Florida.

Florida HF Nets, Abbreviations, Frequencies and Times

TIME		NET ABBREVIATION AND NAME	FREQ
0655		**FPTN** Fla. Phone Tfc Net	3940
0730	(SAT)	**AIN** ARRL Information Net	3940
0730	(SUN)	Knights of the Kilocycle	3910
0730	(SUN)	Fla. Trader's Net	3945
0730	(EX SUN)	Old Goat's Net	3910
0745		Waterway Net	7268
0800	(SAT)	**SFAN** South Fla. ARES Net	3940
0800	(TUES)	Buckaroo Tfc Net	7248
0800		SOUTHCARS	7251
0830		**GN** Gator Net	3651/7061
0900	(EX SUN)	**NFAN** North Fla. ARES Net	3950
0900	(SUN)	Swap Net	7275
1000	(WED)	Swap Net	7251
1145		**FMTN** Fla. Midday Tfc Net	7247.5
1330	(SUN)	**FSARA** Fla. Shrine Am Radio Ass'n	7236 +/-QRM
1500	(SUN)	**QCWA** Qrtr Cent. Wireless Ass'n	14347
1630		**FPON** Fla. Public Opns Net	3908
1700		**TPTN** Tropical Phone Tfc Net	3940/7243
1730		**FMSN** Fla. Medium Speed Tfc Net	3651/7061
1800)		**FAST/E** South Fla. Tfc Net (Early	3940
1830/1930		**NFPN** North Fla. Phone Net	3950
1900		Martin County Ragchew Net	3985
1900		**QFN/E** All Fla. CW Tfc Net (Early)	3651/7061
1900	(SUN)	Sailfish Net - West Palm Beach	28425
1900	(MON)	Manatee County ARES Net	28450
1900	(TUES)	Pinellas County ARES Net	28450
1900	(TUES)	Mosquito Net - Orlando Chapter	28333
1900	(WED)	Titusville Mosquito Net	28333
1930	(MON /FRI)	Swap Net	3898
1930	(WED)	Candy's Swap Net	3945
2000		**QFNS** All Fla. Slow CW Tfc Net	3715
2030	(MON)	Wacky Wingdinger Net (NE Fl)	28390
2030		So. Brevard Tech & Ragchew Net	29200
2030	(MON)	**ENTIN** Everglades Novice/Tech Net	28375
2200		**QFN/L** All Fla. CW Tfc Net (Late)	3651
2230		**FAST/L** South Fla. Tfc Net (Late)	3940

PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO:
Bill Britton, KB4VOL
8703 S.E. Jardin St.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
By Packet: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL

NFL BBS Totals, June 1996

Dave Sutherland / N4GMU

CALL	BULL	PERS	NTS	TOT
AA4RU	6800	1058	31	7889
K4GBB	4033	293	14	4340
K4OZS	3423	116	1	3540
KB4T	3768	116	2	3886
KE4COV				
N4GMU	637	77	5	719
N4GXX				
KB4FEA	5031	62	0	5093
N4JTS	5073	261	11	5345
N0ZO				
WB4NOD	439	388	32	859
N8NEU				
N4PLT				
WN4IIV	6231	566	8	6805
W1FJI				
WX4J	25	414	213	652
W4WEB				
N4ZKF				
KK4CQ				
KB9GQT				
KC4HQS	4467	266	32	4765
N1NFC(GA)				

Total NTS traffic for NFL: 349

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

AG2K - Robert F. Imhof, Port Richey
W4UKA - George T. Sperry, Ocala
KS4XM - Ray M. Swenson Jr., Sun City Center
WA2LDV - Kurt A. Meyer, Cape Coral
WA3SGX - Steven E. Swab, Boca Raton
KC3UM - Walter W. Osborne, Zolfo Springs
AG3X - Harry W. Claypool, Labelle
K4DHF - Donald E. Francis, Pensacola
N4HEW - William A. Svolba, Brooksville
K4IK - B. J. Kozak, Zephyrhills
KB4MKO - Clara L. Goldner, Floral City
N4PDZ - Robert J. Burkhart, Lakeland
KO4QY - Clarence W. Plemmons, Orlando
W4RWA - Clyde E. Foutz, Bradenton
K4SJP - Charles C. Harper, Fort Myers
K4SS - Edward C. Schaefer, Dunedin
N4UBE - John S. Jacobsen, Odessa
KC4UZT - Patrick Lombardi, Hudson
KC4VK - Charles W. Lent, Lakeland
N4VWA - John S. Stewart, Naples
KI4YF - William R. Kost, Port Richey
W8JFF - Thomas B. Irvine, Ft. Myers

New Amateur Organization

A new amateur radio organization, the Citrus Amateur Radio League (CARL), has been founded in Citrus County, Florida. CARL has been granted FCC station license authorization with the call sign KF4JPB, and will be the primary user of a VHF repeater system located in Citronelle, operating on the frequency of 146.655 MHz

The CARL mission statement is to support and promote the Basis and Purpose of Amateur Radio as specified in the FCC Part 97 rules, with emphasis on emergency communications, public service, and the National Weather Service Skywarn weather spotter program. CARL supports ARES/RACES in Citrus County, and also encourages amateur operators to develop interests in DX, contesting, National Traffic System message handling, and digital packet communications. Additionally, CARL is a proponent of membership in the ARRL.

Affiliated with CARL and Citrus County ARES/RACES is the NF4U repeater system in Crystal River operating on 146.925 MHz The founders/team leaders of CARL are: KD4FG - Ed Koch, OES, Citrus County ARES EC and RACES Officer KD4BRJ - Trish Koch, Assistant ARES EC K4LDR - Pete Shaw, OES, Assistant ARES EC KE4CXI - Margaret Shaw, OES, CARL Public Affairs

Information may be obtained from KE4CXI

Swap Tables:
$20 per table (Covers both days and includes one ticket). Limit two adjacent tables per request. 150 Swap tables available.
Make checks payable to PCARS. Include SASE.
Tailgate space: first 10' free. Each additional 10', One ticket.

Registration:
$4.00 Advanced/$5.00 at door per person for both days.
Please include SASE for advanced tickets otherwise tickets will be held at door.

Hotel Accommodations:
Melbourne Hilton at Rialto Place, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL 32901-3092
Make reservations before Aug 25, 1996 at:
(800) 437-8010 or 407 768-0200; Fax: (407) 984-2528
$55.00/room - Mention Hamfest

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35 commercial spaces. Please write for more information. Include your phone number.

Transportation Provided:
Transportation will be available between meetings at the hotel and the Hamfest location.

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The Melbourne Hamfest

Saturday 9AM - 5 PM
& Sunday 9 AM - 4 PM

September 14th & 15th , 1996

LOCATION: Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, FL

NOTICE: ***In support of FCC regulations, PCARS will not tolerate nor permit the sale of uncertified equipment and illegally modified electronic equipment during the hamfest.***

Programs:
Florida Phone Traffic Net Luncheon on Saturday, Florida Traffic Handlers Breakfast on Sunday, MARS, ARRL, and many others throughout the weekend.

Melbourne
Auditorium
Melbourne
Square Mall

Talk-in: 146.25/85 Repeater
US 192 / NEW HAVEN AVE

Write Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 1004, Melbourne FL 32902-1004
For information call: Allen Hudson, Hamfest Chairman-407-773-9658, E-mail: ahudson@iu.net.
For swap tables call Larry Sexton, 407-636-8826

There will be no testing

Steve Iezzi, KT4FY

Symmetric Multi-Processing

This new technology is ready for the desktop and very soon, your home.

Those in the market for a computer, even the most computer illiterate know the difference between a 75 megahertz computer and one that runs at 150. It's pretty safe to say that the latter of the same device will run twice as fast as the former. The equation gets more complex when you compare a Mac to a PC this way, but we can use benchmark programs to give us a reasonable solution.

This speed number that are so fond of tossing around is actually the result of an amazing marvel of semiconductor technology. The speed that a processor can operate is directly related to the feature size of the transistors used to make it. Yes, transistors are still used. In a modern computer chip, they are so small that we can have over 4 million of them in one package. Just try to imagine 4 million transistors. A good comparison would be the greater Tampa bay area as about 4 million people. If you could see the transistors on a computer chip as if you were flying over this city of silicon, it would truly resemble a major metropolis.

In my opinion, we are approaching some fundamental physical constraints. First, the feature size is becoming so small, the photo process used to make these devices will no longer work. Quite simply, the wavelength of the energy (this is light we are talking about) is larger than transistor we are trying to make. It's like slicing bread with a baseball bat. It just doesn't work. The next issue is heat dissipation. The switch to 3.3 volt logic has greatly improved the efficiency of these devices, but the supply can't get much smaller or it will start cutting into witching margins making it very difficult to build a printed circuit board. Even at 3.3 volts, the faster processor require large heat sinks and forced air cooling. Digital Alpha processors which run at 300 megahertz have huge heat management systems. Finally, the devices are so complex that manufacturers will find it difficult to make one that even works.

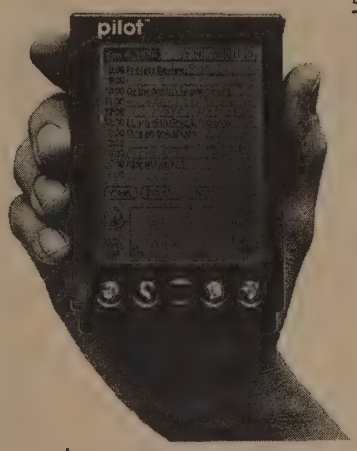
The logical solution is multi-processing. This technology doubles up on the processor chip but nothing else. Since the processors have on-board cache (memory with the most recently accessed info) they can operate efficiently even if they are sharing the same memory and devices. Multi-processing has been around for a long time. A few years ago, it would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to field a system like this. But, with the advent of the Pentium, Intel introduced symmetric multi-processing (SMP) to the desktop world. Even these boards were too pricey for all but servers and workstations. All that changed with the release of the Triton 2 and Natoma chip sets. These components bring the cost of SMP to anyone. The release of the Tyan Tomcat 2, a SMP Triton 2 motherboard adds only $40 to the cost of a single CPU board. The lower cost of slower CPUs means that you can buy two Pentium 100 chips for less than the cost of one Pentium 150 and more than pay for the dif ference in the motherboard.

Is this for everyone? Unfortunately, not all software takes advantage of dual processor technology. To date, only Windows NT, Linux and Solaris can run SMP. And only the system software actually divides between the two CPUs. As a result, SMP systems run about 1.5 times faster than single CPU versions.

This disturbing spec does not tell the whole story. As many of you running Windows 95 have now realized, multitasking computers can frequently get so busy performing background tasks that the graphics performance in the foreground is unusable. SMP boards, because of the nature of the hardware do not have this limitation. SMP systems multitask better because the Operating System as more resources to manage. For a desktop user, this means that your box remains usable for tasks like word processing even if your running an antenna simulation in the background.

With the drop in memory prices and the significant upgrade of Windows NT 4.0 just around the corner, many may find the older brother of Windows 95 a better choice for your computing needs.

Steve



US Robotics has introduced Pilot, a new handheld, next-generation personal digital assistant (PDA). The pocket-size Pilot, with pen input and handwriting recognition has been wowing the Demo 96 crowd.

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Bertha BEARed in Brevard

by Clayton Bennett KA4NHW

Brevard County hams were ready for Hurricane Bertha. Fortunately for us, it did not come ashore. Only Hurricanes David and Erin have come ashore here in recent years. Both did extensive damage to homes and businesses with power outages for several days.

Brevard County is 72 miles long and is situated on the central east coast. Brevard County has three major ham clubs in the north, central, and south of the county. In the past we have had the RACES and ARES groups as separate functions operating almost independently of each other and with the ARES groups split-up within the three sections of the county.

After looking at the county as a whole and seeing what the needs were and to better serve the Brevard County citizens in an emergency, the Brevard County Amateur Radio Service (BEARS) was formed. This took the RACES and ARES functions and merged them into one group. Now we have one large organization with hundreds of hams with the three major clubs in the north, central, and south portions of the county supporting the effort. Several other counties around the country have also merged their ARES and RACES into one organization. This also gives us better financial support from the clubs for the emergency effort, since ARES and RACES do not have dues or other income. The clubs can now adjust their annual budgets for emergency operations. We also we have REACT in the BEARS groups. This may shock some hams, but after the hurricane passes and you are in the recovery stage and have 18-wheeler vehicles re-suppling the areas. REACT is better able to communicate with the truckers, since most of them have C.B. radios. We can relay information from truckers by REACT through BEARS to the proper agencies in the county for distribution of needed supplies.Hams trying to chase down truckers was a problem during Hurricane Andrew.

The Brevard County Office of Emergency Management (B.C.O.E.M.) is located in Rockledge in central Brevard in an earth covered bunker from the old civil defense days when we were anticipating a nuclear war. This bunker houses the Emergency Operation Center (E.O.C.), 911 facilities, County Fire Command Center, and a room full of ham gear with 2 H.F. , 5 V.H.F., 1 U.H.F., packet, G.M.R.S. radios, and A.T.V. From this room, the BEARS controls and directs ham resources to the north, central, and south net control centers of the county. Each of the three sections of the county has their own net and frequency. This is necessary to minimize congestion on a frequency and also because their is no repeater that can cover all shelter locations. When the south needs to pass information or get assistance from the E.O.C. they go to the county net control frequency. Also when the county needs information or to direct hams to sites, they call the correct area and pass the traffic. This works quite well.

On Wednesday morning, before Bertha was expected to come close to Brevard county, B.C.O.E.M.was evaluating the situation to decide when to evacuate the barrier islands. 11:00 a.m. was determined as the ime for a volunteer evacuation. When the evacuation alarm sounded, the hams had already started The nets were established and hams were checking in. While Red Cross officials were setting up shelters, hams were being assigned to shelters, fire departments, hospitals, ambulance centers, and police departments. Equipment was being gathered, generators checked out, and a major retail store was lending us deep cycle batteries from their automotive department. Most local industries were sending their employees home, freeing up more hams. Grocery stores were packed as people were hastily grabbing last minute supplies. Cellular phones were busy with frantic callers and many were not able to complete their calls with all channels being used. Another good reason for ham radio.

Brevard county had approximately 150 hams check-in for assignment. Some were placed right away, and others said they would relieve them when they secured their own homes. In a community college shelter, they had approximately 1100 evacuees. They were placed in four different buildings requiring four hams. Believe it or not, most school sheltersdo not have a telephone available. In the public schools, the phone is in the main office, which will probably be locked. In the case of the community college, the switchboard was closed, with no phones working. Another reason for ham radio. In all, we had hams at the Red Cross Center, the E.O.C., the National Weather Service in Melbourne, 7 shelters, 5 fire departments, 1 police department, 2 hospitals, 1 ambulance center, and a mobile hospital van. We could have placed more if needed.

The National Weather Center predicted that the storm would turn to the north, sparing the east coast of Florida. Bertha finally did turn and by 11:00 P.M. the E.O.C. started closing down some of the sites. The hams were sent home from the Police and Fire Departments and Hospitals. The shelters had to stay open and the hams were there until 7:00 A.M. the next morning.

This hurricane was very early in the season. For us, it was a good dry run to see where we need to improve. We will probably have several more like this, hopefully they will all stay at sea. We must always be prepared for the big one that will get us. I would like to hear from other hams about their preparedness with Hurricane Bertha. My e-mail address is cbennett@harris.com

1996 Field Day Report

KD4FG plus N/T KC4GPD
Citrus County (Florida) - Class 2A

Our ARES/RACES tea. set up FD operations on the grounds of the county Emergency Operations Center underground bunker. This is high-ground for Florida terrain, about 85 feet AMSL. We had use of a 1930s three-room school house currently housing the county's fruit and vegetable canning kitchen available for public use. The Cattlemen's Association and various farm organizations also meet there.

But no farm meetings or canning this day.... this was Field Day, supported by our county emergency management officials and State Legislative Representative, who dispatched a delegate to visit with us. We were also visited by the ARES District Emergency Coordinator (DEC), AD4CL, who journeyed 30 miles to see us. Several citizens, who saw our activity listed in the county newspaper, also came by to see what this ham radio stuff was about.

Our approach was patterned with KISS in mind; (keep it simple stupid). Wire antennas for the CW and SSB stations, a three element ten meter yagi for the Novice/Tech station, and a 6db gain collinear vertical atop the ten meter yagi for the two meter voice/digital station. There were doubts that we would accomplish our minimum of ten two meter simple. contacts with a vertical at 30 foot height because Citrus County is in the jing-weeds, on the Gulf of Mexico, 90 miles North of Tampa; away from the population concentrations.

Two ladies, KD4BRJ and KE4CXI, and a senior gent - KE4UDE, laid out and strung the wire antennas up 45 feet in the Live Oak trees, as directed by K4LDR; a FD veteran with 38 FDs since 1955 (but he's not an old goat, only a CW op with . genuine old fashioned green eye shade - no fooling). N7KAA and KD4FG arrived after they got off work, just at the right moment, to provide additional muscle to swing up the mast holding the 10M yagi and 2m vertical. This mast isn't a flimsy pole. It is a 30 foot, 4 inch diameter Korean War vintage, 5 feet per section, screw together baby that isn't particularly lightweight for aluminum.

The bottom line is: the ladies - KD4BRJ and KE4CXI - were a critical and key part in setting up this communications operation and operating during this exercise, all of us worked like Trojans, persistence on 2M resulted in 17 contacts to earn the bonus points, with 942 HF contacts.

The newer hams learned about emergency field communications, how to do the best lightning protection in the second highest lighting area IN THE WORLD, and how to be savvy and efficient radio operators under duress. By the way, this group saw action during five Field Days in 1995; regular FD, along with deployments to public shelters during hurricanes Allison, Erin, Opal, and a very serious simulated disaster exercise at our local nuclear power plant.

And .... our seasoned radio ops were proud of this emergency communications group, turning away to shield their smiles.

-Thanx to Pete Shaw, K4LDR

Car buying guide

REDMOND, WASHINGTON, U.S.A., 1996 JUL 19 (NB) — By Bob Woods. Extending its global reach even further via the Internet's World Wide Web, Microsoft (NASDAQ:MSFT) is introducing a car buying guide to help US auto shoppers either purchase or lease their four wheel dream, called the Microsoft CarPoint Internet buying guide. A Web surfer can't literally "kick the tires" but they can see depictions of the interiors of more than 900 automotive models.

All major car model lines sold in the US are represented on the site, meaning that Web users can save time, money, and hassle when they buy a new car, officials said. Presentation of the cars at the site is done by technology called Surround Videos, which let viewers investigate new car interiors by clicking and dragging through 360-degree views of the auto.

Finding the right car can be difficult enough, with frequent trips to car lots and paging through manufacturers' brochures on autos. But at the CarPoint site, a Find feature generates a list of vehicles from a Net user's criteria, like vehicle type, cost, safety features, and fuel economy.

Also included at the site is a hyperlink to an Internet purchase-lease program, called Auto-By-Tel. If a Web user wants information about buying a car they've seen on the site, they can click the link and be taken directly to Auto-By-Tel's site.

The Microsoft CarPoint Internet buying guide is located at URL (uniform resource locator) http://carpoint.msn.com . Use of the site is free; optional IntelliChoice Just The Facts reports, which detail invoice pricing on car makes and options, are available for $4.95 each. The reports also include current rebates and incentives, and cost of ownership evaluations.

Simba analyst Elizabeth Estroff noted to Newsbytes that the use of the Internet by automotive companies in general is greatly increasing. In fact, a recent survey showed that both computer and car marketers are early adopters of the Web and online advertising.

(19960718/Press Contacts: Michelle Dollarhide or Suzanne Dennehy, Waggener Edstrom for Microsoft, 503-245-0905)

Windows95 Tip

Quick Route to Desktop icons

You have three windows open and need to get to that one shortcut sitting on the desktop and it is covered by the open windows. Most tips journals tell you to right-click the taskbar, click minimize all windows, then access the icon, and basically repeat the process. Trouble is that you have to wait for all of this to happen and then you have to reopen the windows you minimized. INEFFICIENT!!

Try this instead: Click [Start] Run, type one period (.), then hit [Enter]. The result will be a window with all of your desktop shortcuts within it. If you substitute a backslash (\) for the period, the window will contain all of the folders and files in the root directory of your C drive. By the way, you can pull this off for any drive on your system by typing the drive path (E:\) in the RUN dialog box.

-Thanx to D.B.A.R.A Groundwave

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Disaster Managers: Are you ready?

Disaster managers, emergency coordinators and amateur radio operators should be in a state of readiness as we enter the third month of the official hurricane season. As we are aware, it seems that no amount of forethought and brainstorming ever seems to cover all the situations and questions that arise during and after a hurricane or disaster.

One of the most comprehensive collections of resources this writer has ever seen was compiled by a guy called "Frank" and resides on the World Wide Web as: **Links to Resources Involving Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Floods and All Sorts of Natural Disasters.**

There are 56 links to every conceivable location from insurance companies to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. One can find out how to live with tropical weather systems or find suggestions for middle school hurricane activities.

For supervisory personnel who aren't especially wise in the ways of utilizing the Internet, you will perform a valuable service to yourself, your assistants, and the people you are assisting by finding a way to use the myriad of resources on Frank's web page.

The web address is:

http://www.oo.com/~frank/disaster.html

Frank's links to Internet Resources for Disaster Managers http://www.oo.com/~frank/disaster.html

Links to Resources Involving Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Floods and All Sorts of Natural Disasters

Send any questions, comments, suggestions, or corrections to frank@oo.com.

You are visitor number 0896

Hurricane season started June 1 so be prepared! Are you Ready for a Hurricane?

This page is set to undergo major changes. So keep coming back to check it out.

- Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
- PRESAGE Business Recovery Planner
- PC Weather Products
- Emergency Preparedness Information Exchange
- HazardNet
- American Red Cross
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Maine Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois CES Disaster Resources - University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service
- Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center - University of Colorodo
- Australian Disaster Management Information Network
- Victoria State Emergency Service WWW
- Emergency Preparedness Canada
- British Columbia Emergency Program
- Are you Ready for a Hurricane? [B
- Recent Global Earthquake Events
- Emergency Response and Research Institute
- FedWorld
- Florida Department of Insurance
- Hurricane Forecasting by Dr. William Gray
- Hurricane:Living with Tropical Weather Systems
- Insurance News Network
- Insurance Companies and Resources on the 'Net
- Insurance Web
- National Association of Insurance Commisioners
- National Hurricane Center
- National Hurricane Center
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Snow and Ice Data Center
- National Weather Service
- National Weather Service
- RISKweb
- Seismo-Surfing
- United States Geological Survey
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
- Gateway to the World of Tornado Research
- Disaster Research Newsletter from the Natural Hazards Research & Application Information

CASHING IN ON BERTHA

I normally don't publish my most private diary entries but thought I would let you see a few to show Hurricane Preparedness - as practiced by the Editor.

July 9, 1996

Dear Diary,

Just as I'm getting comfortable in my nearly new house, remodeling compliments of Hurricane Erin and about an 80% replacement of electrical devices compliments of the "Bolt from the Blue" in March, I watch in horror as a big fat Bertha mills around in the Caribbean. ***T'ain't nuthin'*** says the radio, TV, and the weather services. Looks like sumthin' to me. Surely the big man upstairs won't do this to me again. I haven't abused my girlfriend and only kicked the dog once. I even spared the life of a garden snake. I did have a few "unpleasant" words for several ignorant motorists. By and large, I was well behaved so maybe I'll be spared.

July 10, 1996

Dear Diary,

What started out as a beautiful day - the sunrise, the birds singing while they visited my feeder - has turned to panic. I took a peek at the hurricane satellite image and my extensive Boy Scout training in compass navigation told me that Bertha's course was heading directly to my house! I tuned in the weather radio. ***"Not to worry,"*** says the man. Bertha will be turning North at any minute. I relaxed for several hours until a local police car pulled into my driveway. My good friend, Officer Bill, tells me that the PD is on alert and they are evacuating the beach. A quick listen to the radio tells me that I must buy water, non-perishable food, board my windows and fill my gas tank. I felt like a character out of a James Thurber story who joins thousands of other panicked people seeking high ground when a rumor circulated that "the dam broke". To summarize my 3-hour excursion down town:

- Radio Shack was sold out of batteries
- Upon entering Publix, I noted at least 50 people standing in line at each of 12 registers and a mass of humanity scurrying around in the aisles. They were out of water and the soup shelf had an assortment of asparagus, split pea and cream of rutabaga soups.
- I went to Food Lion only to find that a supermarket parking lot can truly exceed its capacity. Maybe even double capacity what with the double

parking. I couldn't even find an illegal place to park.

■ I visited several gas stations. It appeared several thousand other panicked drivers had the same idea or else there was another gasoline shortage.

■ I pulled into the deserted parking lot of a natural food market to rethink my dilemma. I wonder why natural-food freaks don't panic in the face of a hurricane. The only thing I managed to buy in the three-hour stampede to prepare for the hurricane was a box of cigars. My gas tank was at 1/8th and I bought no water. I had four gallons of distilled water at home and several cans of soup. I don't tend to be preoccupied with bathing during a hurricane and I never drink water. I seldom take leisurely drives during hurricanes so why do I need a full tank of gas? I have a propane cooking stove and some soup fit for consumption. I came to the conclusion that I had no reason to continue with the hurricane stampede so I went into the natural food market and bought a box of natural mushrooms. I wondered what in hell unnatural mushrooms might be or what those things are I buy in the regular markets. Whatever the difference, they cost about 1/3 more than the unnaturals. I plan to prepare a delightful supper of spaghetti with mushrooms (maybe my last supper). At least I'll face death with a full stomach.

July 11, 1996

Dear Diary,

Today I'm weary. I remained vigilant all night. At 11:14 P.M. I went outside to get a preview of the approaching fury of Bertha. I was astonished to look at a starlit sky. The branches on the trees were motionless. I tuned into the weather radio. Hurricane warnings were still in effect. The gusting winds and rain will mount during the night. They never mounted. My grass got wet from the lawn sprinkler. There is an unmistakable conclusion to be drawn from the last three days: The weather services, supermarkets, water-bottling companies, and gasoline companies are involved in a massive conspiracy. I'm seriously thinking of writing a book exposing the scam. I may become a millionaire; all because of Bertha.

Les

New Internet Sites

In The News - TWA 800 Explosion

Latest news on the explosion and crash of TWA 800 can be found on all the major news sites on the Web. There are also a number of other Web pages which are providing information from TWA, TWA's 747 fleet, the Department of Transport, the Long Island Coast Guard, National Transportation Safety Board, and information from Boeing on the 747 aircraft.

http://www.twa.com/
http://www2.twa.com/TWA/Airlines/flights/ap747.htm
http://www.dot.gov/affairs/faaind.htm
http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg/d1/grulis/grouplis.htm
http://www.ntsb.gov/Pressrel/Pressrel.htm
http://www.boeing.com/747.html

Canada Telephone Directory

Now it's not just the US that you can find real world directory listings for online. The new Canada 411 directory offers English and French access to a database of over a million people and includes postcodes. The service is supported by several telephone companies.

http://canada411.sympatico.ca/

Searching Singapore

If you need to find something in Singapore, check out Surfer's Edge. It is a fully searchable and browsable directory of Singapore and Singapore-related Web resources. You can conduct your search in subject defined areas, to cut down on unrelated hits, or across the entire database.

http://surfers.edge.com.sg/

Sustainable Development Information Center

This is the home page of GRID-Sioux Falls, the North American node of the United Nations Environment Program's Global Resource Information Database (UNEP/GRID) network. The center contributes data and information to the program that works towards promoting sustainable development initiatives. Timely environmental information is available from the site.

http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/

Lamborghini Speeds Onto The Web

If you love sports cars you'll want to know about this new site. Sports car maker Lamborghini has launched the official Automobili Lamborghini Web site. The new site allows you to "test drive" a car, download photographs from factory's private archives, and will soon feature company goods, promises Lamborghini.

http://www.lamborghini.com/

The Word Detective

This is the online home page of a popular newspaper column. You can read delayed versions of the column here which answers readers questions regarding the origins of English words. The current page includes answers to questions such as, "What is the origin of hot dog?" and the origin of the phrase "Twenty three skidoo."

http://www.users.interport.net/~words1/

CNN vs. MSNBC

It's just for fun, but Newslink is conducting a poll on whether Web users like the new MSNBC service or CNN better. Visit both sites, links from the page, and then vote for which one you like the most. Results will be available from July 23.

http://www.newslink.org/poll.html

Cooking Links

You never need to buy a recipe book again! If there wasn't enough food-and cooking-related pages online, we came across another resource. The Mega Bites Web site includes links to many other Web sites associated with food, nutrition, mailing lists, online magazines, and more.

http://www.pebbs.com/megabites/links.html

Across America - Pennsylvania, Virginia

Virtual Philly features housing, resumes, businesses, maps, Philadelphia Web sites, a Virtual Philly Search, Internet searches, and more. Hampton Roads Biographies Online includes contemporary people, historical personalities, and personal home pages from the area.

http://www.virtualphilly.com/
http://wwwp.exis.net/~cwt/hr-bioln.html

Air Force MARS Report

Operation "Grecian Firebolt 96", the well-planned disaster play for FEMA and other emergency traffic entities has ended and the preliminary results are showing that the hurricane-tracking/warning networks are up to standards. Although final analyses of all phases of the exercise are still being critiqued at the time of this writing, it is becoming evident that one of the end results is that there will still be a need for volunteer MARS operators to supplement the Federal agency with communications on a regular basis.

The affiliates who checked into the GF96 nets and assisted with traffic and SITREPS are commended for their enthusiasm. It is good to know that the FEMA can count on MARS for augmentation of auxiliary communications if and when it may be needed. It is also noted that the majority of stations that assisted had very good signal reports throughout the entire region. This could possibly be affected in the event of a real emergency if the storms damaged any of the members' equipment. Emergency procedure personal planning should include material and plans for a "field-expedient" antenna system and some type of power to use in case of power loss.

Again, from HQ and the Region 2 staff, thanks for a job well done.

* * *

Elliott Harris, AFA2UB, former training manager, was recently appointed Region 2 Net Manager. We are glad to have Elliott back on the nets again and wish him well in his newest appointment. He replaces Charlotte Prince, AFB2CK, who did a fantastic job as net manager, and previously, as deputy director. Our thanks to both these hard-working members for their loyalty, devotion, and willingness to keep our region as effective as it is.

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Carl Houston, Jr., AFF2P

It was recently reported in the Virginia Newsletter, by Dave Trachtenberg, AFA2TR, that the MARS program was explained and voted upon by the House and Senate to be funded for the U. S. Government's Fiscal Year (FY) 97.

In the report accompanying the FY97 Defense Authorization Bill, the Committee on National Security (the authorizing committee in the House) detailed its' justifications for $267 billion in defense spending in the coming year.

The report expresses strong support for the MARS program, which is explained in detail, noting that "civilian affiliates volunteer their time to provide a valuable service to U.S. troops and their families at home or overseas." Because of this and other reasons, the committee supports the continuationand expanded use by all services of an active MARS program. After committee approval, the bill was debated on the House floor, where it was passed and has become the official position of the U.S. Congress.

Apparently this is the first time since the inception of the MARS program that Congress has expressed its' support for MARS in a defense authorization bill.

* * *

The Arnold AFB Support Team held an exercise at the facility at Tullahoma, TN on June 8 to test their effectiveness in an emergency situation. The exercise was a success, and was conducted, after several changes, to accommodate a scenario that would reflect their maximum benefit to the base communications, if ever needed. The team worked from a site outdoors overlooking Woods reservoir, and was initially plagued with hard driving rain. Undaunted, they agreed that the mission, as they had planned it, would continue despite that problem. Just before time to set up, the rain stopped, the sun broke through,and all members started to arrive. The team had and thoughtfully planned each detail; each member knew what to do.

The IMD, Steve, AFA2ES, and Charlotte, AFB2CK were among the first to arrive, and one by one, others began to assemble. The team members started their chores and, due to good planning, was able to overcome several obstacles. Tom, AFA2TB had been tasked to erect the antennas. He and the team put up two dipole antennas in trees; one center-fed and one end-fed. By 2300Z the antennas were in place and ready for testing. AFA2WJ, John in Melbourne, FL was called but had to be relayed by AFF2L in Atlanta. The noise level on the center-fed antenna was terrific, and signals were not good. A decision was made to switch to the end-fed antenna. When it was put in line, the noise decreased and signals improved remarkably. All problems experienced by the team were resolved quickly, and AFA2WQ opened 2S1 soon thereafter. The signals held and they got into the net OK, ready to handle traffic.

The field day exercise was, as statedpreviously, a huge success. The team is complimented for their contribution to USAF MARS and Arnold AFB. Our thanks to: Steve, AFA2ES (IMD), Charlotte AFB2CK, Jack AFA2SM, Tom AFA2TB, Woody AFA2YG, George AFA2RH, and Charlie AFA2MT.

The lessons learned in this exercise will benefit the team in case they areever called upon to supplement the base communications in a real emergency.

* * *

The Region 2 conference will be in attendance by the time this publication gets to you. There will be many items to report on in the next issue, and we are sure that there will be lots of good news coming from the MARS headquarters staff. Until we get the latest news to you next month,

AIM HIGH!

DISCLAIMER: *This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.*

Army MARS Report

Lorraine S. Matthew, AAA9PR

Florida Army MARS operators participated in the annual Grecian Firebolt emergency communications exercise (GF96) during the month of June. This worldwide exercise is conducted by the United States Army Information Systems Command (USAISC) at Fort Huachuca, AZ. Army MARS was invited to participate in this exercise in roles never before seen by any MARS organization. It was by far the most complex communications assignment that Army MARS had ever accepted. The concepts involved operations that have never before been conducted such as open interoperability among the three service MARS organizations, interoperability with Federal agencies directly, radio-wire integration on a scale never used before, networks that had never been used before, and very specialized reporting modes to a military command as well as to MARS command structures. All the challenges given to MARS were met and met with the quality and professionalism that have become hallmarks of MARS all over the world. Army MARS, and by invitation all MARS, was challenged to "show the agencies just what we can do".

One of the outstanding success stories of GF96 was the establishment, staffing, and coordinating of the AAA9A/X net on a 24 hour basis. This net was almost an after-thought and was given to the Western Area members to set up and operate in a similar fashion to the Western Area Emergency Command Net which runs every evening at 7PM local time (0200Z). With a minimum of guidance, AAA9A/X net became THE net to which all areas of the country could turn and know that someone was on the air and ready to take traffic or relay information or do whatever was needed. This net included all the services acting as NCS stations, relaying and sending traffic and participating in the net operations. This station, being Army MARS, was relayed in by both Navy and Air Force MARS members when propagation between this station and the NCS closed. This net was such a success that it is now an on-going part of the Army MARS net structure.

Army MARS now has a 911 type of net which is still available 24 hours per day. Those of us from all three services who participate in it might sit there for hours with little or no action. That is fine because it means that no one at that time needs our help. However, in one six hour period one afternoon recently, calls came from Montana about an earthen dam which was about to rupture, fires in Utah, California, and Washington, floods in other parts of Montana, and the power outage which took out the entire state of Idaho (actually large parts of six states, but that was not known at the time). Colorado also reported the power outage and made some interesting observations. For those who think radio is dead, consider this: Cellular telephone systems failed because of impact and overuse. All the digital modes and satellite systems were down unless generators were available to run them. Regular telephone systems were tied up by the impact of so many additional calls. All the communications media which were supposed to replace radio failed in this emergency. This has happened in many other emergencies as well. Radio always got through. People need to talk to each other and the radio bands are open and waiting. Propagation is often cited as a limiting factor. This factor is now overcome by having in place networks that are geographically wide enough in scope that somewhere a station will here another station and be able to relay. On the AAA9A/X (now AAA9A/B) net, regular stations from Hawaii to the East Coast check in and are available. It is a system that has already been proved reliable. It is a system that was left to the volunteer affiliates to develop and this challenge was very ably met.

Congress has now recognized the value of the MARS program. On May 7, 1996, the report of the Committee on National Security of the House of Representatives was presented to the House as a whole as part of HR 3230. This act which in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 was accepted and voted positively with the following section entitled, "Military Affiliate Radio System"

"The committee notes that the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) provides the Department of Defense and U.S. armed forces with an auxiliary and emergency communications capability on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. It has also been used to handle morale and quasi-official record and voice communications traffic for the armed forces and authorized U.S. government civilian personnel stationed throughout the world. The MARS program operates at little cost to the government and has provided the U.S. armed forces with a reserve of qualified and well-trained radio communications personnel including civilian 'affiliates' who volunteer their time to provide a valuable service to U.S. troops and their families at home or overseas. The committee further notes that the Army MARS support plan for Operation Joint Endeavor was held in abeyance due to the use of other communications means to meet morale support requirements for U.S. armed forces deployed in Bosnia. However, these other means may take time to establish, may not always be reliable or available, or may result in out-of-pocket costs to U.S. service personnel. Because of this, the committee supports the continuation and expanded use by all services of an active MARS program."

Congress has spoken and all of MARS has reason to be proud of this recognition.

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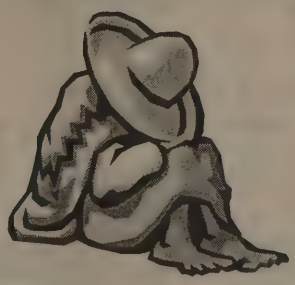

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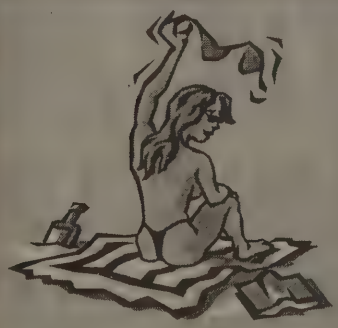

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Whitehouse Filegate and You

In early June, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee revealed that the White House had requested the FBI file on former Travel Office employee Billy Dale. Soon after, it was also revealed that the White House had obtained hundreds other individuals' FBI files. Some of the files requested by the White House were those of members of previous Republican administrations. So far, 481 files are known to have been sent to the White House and there are unconfirmed reports of hundreds more. The White House is claiming that the files were obtained as part of a bureaucratic mistake.

The White House and the FBI quickly apologized for their action. White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said, "A mistake has been made here. It is inexcusable and I think an apology is owed to those that were involved." FBI Director Louis J. Freeh described the disclosure of files as an "egregious violations of privacy" and noted that "the FBI gave inadequate protection to the privacy interests of persons in FBI files."

Despite these apologies, the FBI maintains that its release of confidential information to the White House was not against the law. The Privacy Act of 1974, which does not apply to the White House, requires that record-holding agencies, such as the FBI, get the permission of an individual before disclosing their record. Although the FBI did not have the appropriate permissions, they claim they did not violate the Privacy Act because their actions fall under the "routine use" exception in the Act. A report by Howard Shapiro, FBI General Counsel, states that the routine use "to assist the recipient agency in the performance of any authorized function where access to records in this system is declared by the recipient agency to be relevant to that function" is applicable because the White House requests appeared to be legitimate requests.

Legal scholars note that if the FBI's claim of "routine use" survives judicial scrutiny, the Privacy Act's safeguards will have little meaning. Even revised internal policies designed to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future could be relaxed in the future. A Senate oversight committee may soon hold hearings to consider whether amendments to the Privacy Act are necessary to ensure protection of personal information held in federal agencies.

More information on the FBI files issue is available from:

http://www.epic.org/privacy/filegate/

-EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center)

Clinton pushes harder for Clipper

Marking the fourth time that the Clinton Administration has tried to push though a proposal for key escrow encryption, the Department of Commerce announced this week that the Secretary of Commerce will appoint a panel to advise on the implementation of a "key management infrastructure." The KMI proposal was first put forward by the White House in May. The proposal called for the creation of a key management infrastructure which would require users to disclosure their private keys to a government certified escrow agent. It was quickly dubbed "Clipper III," and widely criticized by the public and members of Congress. (See EPIC Alert 3.10[1])

The new proposal also flies in the face of the recent findings of an extensive report from the National Research Council which concluded that it would be a mistake to continue "aggressive promotion" of key escrow encryption. The NRC found that there was insufficient experience to support large scale deployment of key escrow; key escrow would not solve the most serious law enforcement problems; key escrow will have "a significant negative impact" on the development of new information services and technologies; and key escrow will skew market development of encryption applications.

The KMI proposal also contradicts a recent recommendation by the Department of Commerce's own Computer System Security and Privacy Advisory Board which endorsed the conclusions of the NRC report. (See EPIC Alert 3.11[6])

More information is available at

http://www.epic.org/crypto/key_escrow/

-EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center)

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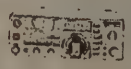

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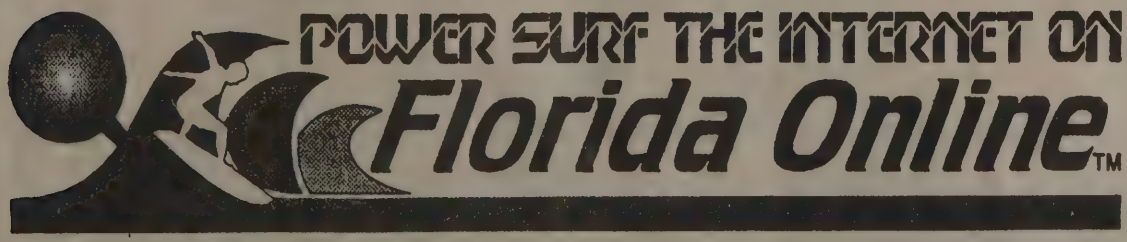

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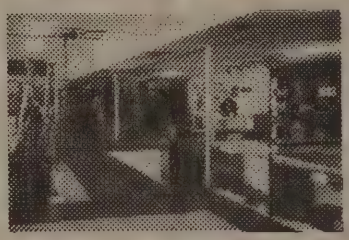

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FOR SALE - Yeasu 5200 dual bander w/front end extender & Diamond NR72 mag mount antenna - $450.00. Call John, Hollywood 954-961-1357.

FOR SALE - Heathkit SB-200 w/manual, needs work - $75.00. Swan 750CW w/manual, including PSU-3 power supply, not working - $50.00. Pick up only. Ken, AC4J in Miami at 305-233-0115.

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FOR SALE - Kenwood 440S, PS50, PK232, Timewave DSP-9T, Swan wattmeter, dummy load, misc. items, 286 IBM clone computer, monitor, Kenwood MC60 mike. Call Max, K4EGZ, N. Miami Bch., FL 305-949-4868.

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SOLDER SUCKERS - Step Aside. While trouble shooting printed circuit boards, I ran into the usual trouble. Solder clogged holes. Since necessity is the mother of invention, I fabricated a soldering aid made of .029 st. stl. wire. To use, hold the tool against the clogged hole. Heat the solder side and "voila", you have a clear hole! Solder does not stick to st. stl! For $2.50 P.P., you can get this gem from Charlie, K4JLK. 6902 Sebastian Rd., Ft. Pierce FL 34951.

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Florida Hamfest Update - August, 1996

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
Aug 3/4	Jacksonville	Prime Osborne Convention Ctr South Lee & West Bay St Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Billy, N4UF (904) 350-9193
Sept 7/8	Melbourne	Melbourne Auditorium 625 Hibiscus Blvd. Talk-in on 146.850 INFO: Allen, N4PTM (407) 773-9658
Sept 14 (Rain Date Sept 28)	Sunrise	FREE! At Motorola East Parking Lot University & Sunrise Blvd Talk-in on 146.790 INFO: Robin, N4HHP (954) 583-3625
Sept 22 (Sunday only)	New Port Richey	Recreational Center on Van Buren Ave. Talk-in on 145.35 & 147.15 INFO: Ron, N9EE (813) 376-6575
Oct 5 (7am - noon. Raindate Oct 12)	Miami	FREE! At Univ. of Miami Parking lot 102 on San Amaro Talk-in on 146.865 INFO: Bill, WA4TEJ via the repeater
Oct 19	Starke	Bradford County Fairgrounds U.S. 301 north of SR 100 Talk-in on 145.150 INFO: Dan, K4RVD (904) 475-2695
Oct 19/20	West Palm Beach	Expo Center @ South FL Fairgrounds SR 80 just east of U.S. 441 Talk-in on 147.165 INFO: Hal, N4UIT (561) 439-0805
Oct 26	Port St Lucie	Port St Lucie Yacht Club 500 Prima Vista Blvd Talk-in on 146.955 INFO: Rick, KO4CZ (561) 335-1738
Nov 2 (New Location)	Sorrento	Lake Amateur Radio Ass'n (Eustis) East Lake Chamber of Commerce SR 437 (Plymouth-Sorrento Rd) Talk-in on 147.255 INFO: Tony, KE4NLG (352) 360-1380
Nov 9	Titusville	Fox Lake Park Harrison St west to the park Talk-in on 146.910/146.970 INFO: Clyde, K4EOS (407) 267-9375
Nov 23/24	Tampa	Florida Expo Park I-4 & US 301 Talk-in on 146.940 INFO: Jean Endicot (813) 525-5178
Dec 7	Okeechobee	Agriculture Center Bldg on US 441 1.5 mi north of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.195 INFO: Al, AD4RZ (941) 467-0516
Dec 7	Ocala	Booster Stadium N 36th Ave 1 mile N of SR 40 Talk-in on 146.970 INFO: Mario, N4TSV (352) 245-9514
Dec 14	Lake City	FL Sports Hall of Fame I-75 exit 82 to US 90 west Talk-in on 145.490 INFO: Colen, WA5RKR (904) 755-7969

1997

Jan 4/5	Fort Myers	City of Palms Hamfest Fort Myers Shriners Mosque 2010 Hanson St, 1 bl east of US 41 Talk-in on 147.345 INFO: Dale, KD4UAD (941) 275-8360
Jan 11/12	Sarasota	Robards Sports Arena 3000 Fruitville Rd Talk-in on 146.910 & 444.925 INFO: Sam, KE4BXF (813) 922-4591
Jan 18	Crystal River	Crystal River Armory Talk-on on 146.955 INFO: Bill, KO4ZA (904) 382-5755
Jan 19	Pinellas Park	Benefit Boy's & Girl's Club 7790 61st St North Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Mike, KC4TEX (813) 823-4255
Feb 1/2	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925 INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR (305) 642-4189
Feb 8	Arcadia	Desoto County Fairgrounds US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.075 INFO: Doug, KN4YT (941) 494-5070
Feb 8	Pensacola	Bayfront Municiple Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925 INFO: Bill, WA4YRN (904) 476-8537
Feb 15/16	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465
Feb 22	Brooksville	VFW Hall in Spring Hill Talk-in on 146.715 INFO: Lee, WA3YMV (352) 799-1638
Mar 1	Zephyrhills	At 3339 Allen Rd. Talk-in on 145.190 INFO: Phinney, WB4UMT (813) 788-1344
Mar 15/16	Ft. Walton Beach	Okaloosa County Fairground 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd. Talk-in on 146.790 INFO: Bud (10-7 CST) (904) 243-2404
Mar 22	Stuart	FREE! At Martin County Fairgrounds A1A south of Stuart Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Andy, W8BIX (561) 225-5122
Mar 22	Sebring	National Guard Armory on U.S. 27, 6 mi N of Sebring Talk-in on 147.270/145.330 INFO: George, KD4WDX (941) 382-4061
Mar 29	Fanning Springs	Livestock Pavillion Fairgrounds SR 26 & US 19 Talk-in on ?? INFO: Glenda, K4KRU (904) 542-3033

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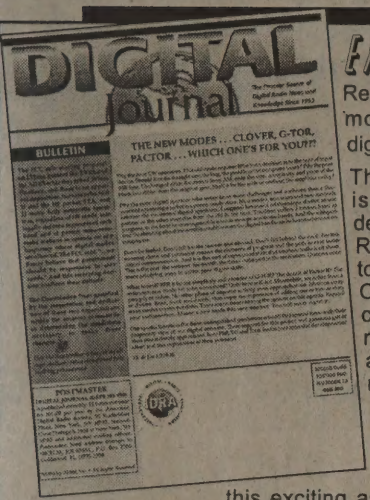

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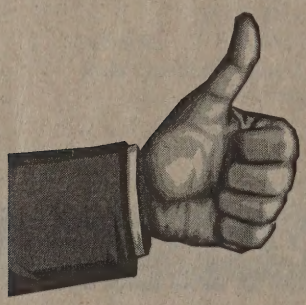

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